

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SB 5554

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Regarding the job skills program.

**Sponsors:** Senators Kilmer, Hobbs, Kastama, King, Jarrett, Marr, McAuliffe, Shin and Pridemore.

**Senate Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation**  
**House Committee on Higher Education**

**Background:** The Job Skills Program was created by the Legislature in 1983 to provide customized job training to meet the needs of employers by serving dislocated and disadvantaged individuals. It is directed towards programs of skills training or education separate from existing vocational education programs, and focuses on short-term specific training for new and growing industries in areas with a high concentration of disadvantaged people and unemployment, or places where new skills are required to avoid worker dislocation.

The Jobs Skills Program was appropriated \$2.725 million for fiscal year 2009. It is administered by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (the state board) with the advice of the Workforce Training Customer Advisory Committee (the advisory committee). The state board is authorized to provide job skills grants to education institutions if such grants are consistent with 11 criteria including the use of alternative funding, effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed program, an inability to otherwise create the proposed program, use of collaboration with industry and labor, and agreements for mandatory information reporting.

**Summary:** The state board and the advisory committee are directed to give priority to applications from firms in strategic industry clusters that would (1) be coordinated with other cluster-based programs; (2) create industry-based credentialing; (3) create programs where benefits might extend to persons beyond the grant recipients; and (4) propose training that would lead to skills that are transferrable between different jobs, employers, or workplaces.

Jobs skills programs are defined as those that focus on promotion of the growth of industry clusters rather than those serving areas with new and growing industries.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Senate	45	0	
House	96	1	(House amended)
Senate			(Senate refused to concur)
House	94	0	(House amended)
Senate	48	0	(Senate concurred)

**Effective:** July 26, 2009